

EVENTS throughout Woolfest

Back to basics - Sue Blacker of the Natural Fibre Company will be demonstrating several basic skills for anyone wanting to work with wool from start to finish.

- Assessing wool quality on and off the sheep
- The right fleece for the right purpose
- How to sort a fleece

These demonstrations will take place in the Main Show Ring and details of times will be available at the Information Desk.

Demonstration area - There will be a rolling programme of free demonstrations and informal tuition throughout Woolfest, mainly in the demonstration area near the Information Desk. Turn up and watch, learn and perhaps even have a go.

- Rag rugs - Heather Ritchie
- Proddy rugs - Carlisle and District U3A
- Guild of Long Draw Spinners including the great wheel, carding and wool preparation
- Supported hand spindling - Galina Khmeleva
- Traditional knitting and national costume - Larvik Knitting Cafe Norway
- Cumbria's first Knitting Cafe comes to Cockermonth
- Historic Dales Knitting - Swaledale Museum Knitting Group
- Braid weaving on inkle loom, peg loom and a Viking warp-weighted loom - Ruth Hicken from Textiles through Time
- Wet felting and needle felting - Julie Harrison and Lesley Munro
- Herdwick rope making - Walter Lloyd
- Weaving with table looms - Therese Southgate and Mary Walker

No booking, no tickets, no fee but a lot of knowledge, information, skill and fun will be available. Lots of other stallholders around the event will also be happy to talk about their work and techniques - just ask.

Rare breed parades in the Main Ring - At various times during each day, there will be a "parade" of rare breeds into the main ring and a brief introduction to some of the key breeds represented at Woolfest - look out for confirmation of timings but planned for 11.30-12.30pm and 2.30-3.30pm.

Friday - On Friday at 11am and 2pm, we will have Fashion Shows in the Small Ring from **Youth Actions for Rural Futures** - wool creations with a strong environmental message.

Friday evening in the Marquee - The Friday evening of Woolfest is a great opportunity for wool and craft enthusiasts to get together, share a meal and share their stories.

- **Feast** - The supper, a Cumberland Sausage Feast (or a vegetarian stew alternative), is available from 5pm to 7pm and needs to be booked in advance. The cost, including a glass of non-alcoholic punch, is £6.50.
- **Spin In** - If you have never seen more than 100 spinning wheels and spinners in one place at one time, this will be quite an experience. Tickets for the Spin In cost £3.50 and need to be booked in advance. The Spin In runs from 7pm to 9pm and is most definitely not just for spinners - bring your knitting, crochet, weaving (small scale!) or whatever textile craft you like. If the weather promises to be fine all evening and people wish to be outside, more tickets will be made available at the Information Desk during Friday and on the door.

Saturday afternoon in the Main Ring - Textile Sheep Auction - 1pm with Mitchell's Auctioneer, Adam Day. Have fun learning how a sheep auction works and bid for sheep made by Woolfest visitors. All proceeds to Farm Africa.

Textile Sheep Auction

This is the third year for our Textile Sheep Auction and we've raised over £2,000 so far. Sheep have come from across the world to Woolfest – a beaded sheep from Africa featured in 2009 and the champion in 2008 came from the USA. Thanks to everyone who creates the sheep, to the volunteers who organise and judge the auction and, most of all, to Adam Day of Mitchell's who helps us to raise so much money for an excellent cause.

See www.farmafrica.org.uk for details of Farm Africa and its work.



Ruth and Cecilia of The Wool Clip with Adam Day
... and early entries



Our Champion entry in 2008